

JOYOUS GREETINGS



"And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth." What a magnificent story. God, in infinite love and compassion, lives with us, with you and me. And the quality of God's living with us is that quality of grace, and grace is that free gift, the unmerited love that forgives us and accepts us just as we are, again and again. We never need to hide. We are set free to live, upbeat and joyfully.

Moreover, the quality of God's living with us is the quality of truth. And in a time when so many live by expediency, when human life is demeaned and not valued, the truth is that the one who created us in God's image calls us to live by a high vision of who we are. "Thou hast made him little less than God." We are called to high purpose. But we human beings have a way of denying that vision. We inflict wounds by hatred and

bigotry and anger, and the world bleeds and hurts. Our failures weigh like the albatross around our necks. Loneliness and heartache are like prison chains that bind us.

And to us, a broken and bruised humanity, the Christmas story comes proclaiming "Emmanuel". God is with us. Therefore, we can take Hope and Rejoice.

Our Christmas prayer for you all is that that might be real for you in this season. We give thanks that we are privileged to be a part of the Central Pacific Conference.

God's blessings be on you all.

Inuo Gawaata Jody Wolfe
Egna Ross Frances Heim
Ned Elquist Karen Wick
Harold L. Adkins



NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE; CHRISTIAN LIFE STYLE AND ECOLOGY

Living Simply: Response to World Hunger, a series of 5 filmstrips with cassettes dealing with such basic Christian themes as stewardship, concern for the poor, love in its most demanding and difficult forms, is now available through the Conference Office. Produced by TeleKetetics, who also produced the much-used series, A World Hungry, the five filmstrips of Living Simply are:

"A Family on the Way" - a filmstrip which shows one family in the process of moving to a simpler lifestyle.

"Beginning at Home" - dealing with more efficient approaches to heating, cooling and lighting in the home.

"What's for Dinner?" - the focus of which is on getting the most out of food by eating more efficiently and healthfully.

"The High Price of Wheels" - which concentrates on the automobile and its impact on the economy in which we live.

"Let's Celebrate" - which spotlights the commercialized emphasis to traditional celebrations while suggesting alternative ways of celebration.

Living Simply has been purchased in cooperation with The Community Church of Cedar Hills which provided half of the funds for the series. Churches wishing to schedule the whole series on any one of the filmstrips should contact the Conference Office.

MISSION OUTREACH DEPARTMENT VOTES TO PROCEED WITH TWO NEW CHURCHES

At their last meeting, members of the Conference Mission and Outreach Department voted to proceed with explorations on two new church starts upon the recommendation of the Idaho New Church Task Force and Conference Minister Terry Kawata.

The first location, recommended by the Idaho Task Force, will be in Southeast Boise. This site was selected following a Summer survey which indicated that Southeast Boise would be a probable location for a United Church of Christ.

The second location, recommended by Terry Kawata, will be in Washington County and will be explored with the Hispanic community. Five thousand dollars from the sale of the Faith United Church of Christ property have been dedicated to this project.

In both instances, the Board for Homeland Ministries is being asked to share in the exploration and funding.

U.C.C. 5TH DENOMINATION TO SPONSOR PROTESTANT HOUR

The United Church of Christ has become the fifth denomination to sponsor the cooperative weekly radio program, The Protestant Hour.

It joins the Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church in the US, and United Methodist Church in the joint venture coordinated by the Protestant Radio and Television Center here.

The first 12-week radio series sponsored by the UCC will be aired in the Spring of 1979. Featured speaker will be the Rev. James R. Smucker, chief executive of the New York State Conference, United Church of Christ.

Members of the Youth Fellowship at Parkrose Community Church and Pastor Charles Ross rocked for 51 hours the weekend of October 27-29 in their third annual Hunger Rock-A-Thon. Approximately \$2,000 was raised for The Hunger Program of the United Church of Christ.

WRAP IT UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Have you been getting your presents ready for Christmas? One of the last things to get done---after all the presents have been bought---is to get them wrapped. In a real way, this can be a signal for churches, too. Now is a good time to give final consideration to your congregation's "presents" for the larger ministries we do together through the conference and the national agencies of our denomination.

Consider whether your congregation has fulfilled earlier expectations of giving in behalf of Our Christian World Mission. If, for some reason, your congregation has been unable to make regular monthly remittances to the wider work of the United Church of Christ, now is a good time to catch-up, a time to "wrap it up" for 1978 and to look ahead to 1979.

Important conference and national programs must often be postponed because funds that were expected to come in fail to materialize or are delayed until after the first of the year. Make sure that your congregation is doing its share to support the wider work that your congregation's delegates to conference approved last year and work that your conference delegates approved at General Synod. It's time to "wrap it up" for Christmas!

FAMILY LIFE TASK FORCE TO SPONSOR MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENTS

Responding to the family life priority of the Conference, the Family Life Task Force will be sponsoring three Marriage Enrichment Events with Dr. Stephen Peirce in the opening months of 1979. Dr. Peirce is an ordained UCC minister with a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. He is the founder of Pacific Christian Counseling Center in Tigard, Oregon.

The Marriage Enrichment Events focusing on couple growth and development, will be held in Portland on January 26-27, in Boise on February 23-24, and in Lincoln City on March 30-31. Brochures with complete information have been sent to local churches.

1978-79 MISSION THEME: CHINA MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The 1978-79 mission theme chosen by the National Council of Churches is contemporary China. As they have done in the past, Friendship Press has published many resources to help local congregations explore this year's China theme--resources for adults and children. These resources, assembled in a preview kit now available through the Conference Office, include:

Adult book: China: Search for Community by Raymond and Rhea Whitehead explores what is happening in the People's Republic of China.

Adult/Youth book: Searching for the Real China by David Ng provides provocative ideas, group procedures and session plans for youth and/or adult groups designed to assist users to group in their own understanding of their values and convictions as much as grow in factual knowledge.

Color Filmstrip: China: Take Three presents several perspectives on China.

Children's Books: Through the Moongate by Leonard and Carolyn Wolcott gives early and late elementary students a chance to explore images of the old and new China.

Pandas in the Park by Audrey McKin introduces children to everyday life in the People's Republic of China.

Color Filmstrip: Once Upon a Horse uses famous Chinese fables to make the life of that land come alive.

The books are available for perusal by local churches and the filmstrips can be scheduled for use. Contact the Conference Office.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 11!

The Local Scene

Zion United Church of Christ had an exciting day November 5 when they held their first worship in the completed sanctuary. The Rev. William Tempest was guest preacher on that occasion. Later in the day, the Rev. William Graham was installed as Pastor of the church, at which service members of the congregation honored Mr. Tempest by bestowing upon him the title of Pastor Emeritus. What an exciting day! Congratulations to Bill and Bill and the members of Zion Church!

The Rev. Richard Skidmore was installed as Assistant Pastor of Hillsdale Community Church on October 29. Pastor Rick's wife Elfreda designed a very appropriate bulletin cover for the occasion. Welcome to Pastor Rick and Freda!

The Rev. Walter McGettigan, Pastor Emeritus at Community Church of Cedar Hills, has been called to Hillsdale Church to serve as Interim Senior Minister during the time it takes for the congregation to call a new Senior Minister.

October 29 was also the date upon which the Rev. Earle Spahr was installed as Minister of the Congregational Church in Idaho Falls. Welcome to Earle and Margaret!

Members of Rivercrest Community Church, Portland, installed the Rev. James Estes as Minister in an Installation Service on November 12. Jim and his wife Gayle came to Rivercrest from Spokane, Wash. Welcome!

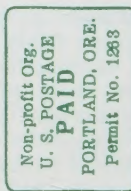
Congratulations to Dr. Wesley G. Nicholson! Members of First Congregational Church, Eugene, the church which Wesley served for 32 years, bestowed upon him the honor of emeritus status in a service on November 26.

November 1 will always be a special day for Nathan Christopher Hunt. That was the day his mother Mary gave birth to him. Nathan's father, the Rev. Howard Hunt, minister at Trinity United Church of Christ, Portland, reports mother and son are both doing well. Congratulations to Howard and Mary!

Members of First Congregational Church, Salem, honored the Rev. Ed Henderlite on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his ordination. Ed will retire his old robe and don the new one which was a gift from the congregation. May the new robe have as many stories to tell twenty years from now, Ed, as the old one.

Congratulations to the Reverends Ken and Rosemary Iha on the occasion of their marriage celebration November 25 in Ashland. May your wedded life be a blessing to you and all whose lives you will touch.

Another new arrival! Thomas Ross Dark-Smith was born to Dick and Diane Dark-Smith of Medford. When? Why on Sunday, of course. Sunday, November 5. All are doing well.



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